



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest pharmacy news, plus full pages from:

- Pointrs
- Team FTF

Pointrs free trial

WITH over 5,000+ hotels and flights to explore, Pointrs is offering pharmacists ways to save on travel and 3.5 times more loyalty points than other providers - see **page three** for the free trial offer.

NVP stock tool

TEAM FTF is providing everything community pharmacies need to guide patients, and maintain stock of a medicinal nicotine vape product (NVP).

See more on the **back page**.

Raven's podcast

THE latest episode of Raven's Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast features Max Mito, co-founder of StrongRoom AI, and Montana Grenfell, Chief of Staff and seasoned pharmacist.

Hosted by pharmacist Krysti-Lee Patterson, the episode dives into the future of pharmacy and technology.

Mito shares his journey from launching his business to revolutionising medication management with technology.

With over a decade in community pharmacy, Grenfell discusses her career shift to drive operational excellence at StrongRoom AI, highlighting the importance of combining clinical experience with technology innovation.

The episode covers the expanding role of technology in pharmacy, including AI-driven solutions, challenges in healthcare, such as fragmented systems, and non-traditional roles for pharmacists.

To learn more, **CLICK HERE**.

FIP seeks robust regulations

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has called for pharmacies to be defined as healthcare facilities and for pharmacists to be recognised as healthcare providers, in order to achieve a fully profession-centred, service-oriented practice model.

In a holding statement released yesterday, FIP emphasised the need for supportive legislative and regulatory frameworks to enable these changes.

FIP highlighted the importance of community pharmacies in providing integrated primary healthcare, which can ease the burden on general practitioners and emergency departments.

"Legislation defining how community pharmacies operate, including workforce, supervision, and services, is essential to meet healthcare needs," said Brett Simmonds, chair of the FIP Regulators Advisory Group.

"It is vital to emphasise the need for rigorous enforcement of these regulations to ensure high standards of practice and effective collaboration among pharmacists," added Simmonds.

Sherif Guorgui, President of FIP's Community Pharmacy



Section, noted that the pharmacy practice is evolving to include primary healthcare services such as prevention, screening and management of chronic diseases, and vaccination.

"There is robust evidence that these services add significant value to health systems and society," Guorgui asserted.

The FIP also stressed the need for funding mechanisms to make pharmacy services equitable and sustainable, urging governments to focus on developing a supportive environment for pharmacies.

The holding statement serves as an initial position on pending issues, with further statements expected from FIP as more evidence becomes available.

To learn more, **CLICK HERE**. JG

Specialised programs for veteran care

PHARMACISTS often serve as the first point of contact for veterans, providing essential services and support.

To enhance healthcare access for Australia's 580,000-strong veteran community, healthcare provider, Provocatus, will showcase its latest initiatives at the Pharmacy Connect 2024 trade exhibition.

"We are passionate about assisting veterans to access supported healthcare in their local community and believe pharmacies play an important role in this," said Provocatus CEO Kasey Mumford (pictured).

The company has developed a program offering specialised resources and training to help pharmacists navigate the unique challenges of veteran healthcare.



Central to their presentation is the Veteran Access Scheme, which facilitates access to critical treatments through collaboration between veterans, GPs and community pharmacists.

The scheme is supported by four essential pillars: medication, appliances, clinical wellness, and health education, which ensure that veterans receive comprehensive support.

Lower co-pays

LOWERING the maximum PBS co-payment is the most effective way to reduce medicine costs and support Australians struggling with the cost of living, said Pharmacy Guild of Australia President Prof Trent Twomey.

New data from the Commonwealth Government shows that cutting the maximum co-payment is over 11 times more effective in providing cost-of-living relief than other measures.

Lowering the co-payment from \$42.50 to \$30 (PD 03 Jan 2023) has saved patients \$346 million, compared to just \$30 million from 60-day dispensing, he said.

Twomey highlighted that the Guild, alongside partners like the Australian Patients Association, campaigned for the historic change - the first in the 75-year history of the PBS.

He noted that despite these savings, many Australians skip essential medicines due to financial pressures, as confirmed by the Australian Healthcare Index survey.

Twomey emphasised that no Australian should have to choose between medicine and other living costs.

Opioid safety kit

A NEW Opioid Safety Toolkit was launched today to help prevent overdose deaths, coinciding with International Pain Awareness Month in Sep.

The toolkit, developed by Monash University, PainAustralia, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, aims to empower consumers with the knowledge and resources for safer opioid use.

Despite naloxone's ability to reverse opioid overdoses, only 2% of people prescribed opioids have the medication at home.

With 13.3 million opioid prescriptions dispensed in 2021-2022, the toolkit addresses the growing issue of opioid-related deaths, which have nearly tripled since 2006.



Dispensary Corner

LOVE sleeping in on weekends?

There is good news as your lazy Saturday mornings might be saving your ticker, according to UPI.

Weekend "catch-up" sleep could slash your risk of cardiovascular disease, revealed new research presented at the European Society of Cardiology's annual meeting in London last week.

"Sufficient compensatory sleep is linked to a lower risk of heart disease," said Yanjun Song, a cardiologist expert from Fuwai Hospital in Beijing.

"The effect is even stronger for those who regularly skimp on sleep during the week."

The study analysed data from nearly 91,000 participants in the UK Biobank research project.

Participants wore sleep monitors and had their heart health tracked.

Around 22% were sleep-deprived, snoozing less than seven hours a night - basically all of us on a Netflix binge.

After 14 years of follow-up, the people who snoozed through Sun brunch were 19% less likely to develop heart disease than those who powered through the weekend on little sleep.

So, if you miss a certain weekend conference, tell everyone you're doing it for your heart.



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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